In re: Koskinen, et al.
Appl. No.: 10/500,712
Amdt. dated March 8, 2010
Reply to Office Action of December 7, 2009

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 26-54 are pending. Claims 13-25 are canceled. The Office Action raises objections to Claims 43 and 54. Claims 43, 46, 53, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 1, 3-5, 10-12, 26-27, 29-30, 35-37, 42-47, and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2005/0136890 to Lippelt ("Lippelt") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,496,690 to Cobo et al. ("Cobo") and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,453,029 to Campbell ("Campbell"). Claims 6-9, 31-34, 38-41, and 51-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lippelt in view of Cobo and Campbell and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,947,724 to Chaney ("Chaney"). Claims 2 and 28 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner contacting the Applicants' representative on December 1, 2009 to discuss the allowability of the subject matter of Claims 2 and 28 and for recognizing the allowability in the present Office Action. Based on the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of Claims 2 and 28 into their respective independent base claims. Applicants have thus canceled Claims 2 and 28 in this response. Applicants have amended several additional claims as set forth in the above listing of amended claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. These amendments are fully supported by the originally filed specification. Claims 43, 46, 53, and 54 have also been canceled. Accordingly, all objections and rejections raised with respect to Claims 43, 46, 53, and 54 are rendered moot. In light of the amendments and subsequent remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance

The Rejection of Independent Claims 1, 26, and 44 under §103(a) is Overcome

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a method comprising establishing accounting sessions between each respective accounting client of a plurality of accounting clients and allocating a common accounting session identifier to each of the accounting sessions based on a received request to establish an accounting session between an accounting

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server and at least one accounting client. The accounting sessions are configured to generate costs to be charged against prepaid credit during a call after ascertaining whether any costs generated by the plurality of accounting clients in a network, which are associated with a request to establish the call between a first terminal and a second terminal, are to be charged against the prepaid credit. The method additionally comprises receiving, at the accounting server, charging update data from each of the plurality of accounting clients during the call. The charging update data includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data. The method further comprises collating charging update data from each of the accounting clients in the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier and the received charging update data at the accounting server, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data received during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data. Claims 26 and 44 have been amended to include substantially similar recitations and are each directed to an apparatus.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 26, and 44 to include each of the features of Claim 2. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claims 1, 26, and 44 are patentably distinct from the cited references, taken alone or in combination, and are in condition for allowance for at least those reasons the Examiner found Claims 2 and 28 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Rejection of Independent Claims 27, 45, and 47 under §103(a) is Overcome

Independent Claim 47 is directed to a method comprising establishing an accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier based on receiving a request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server configured to generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request to establish a call between a first and second terminal. The accounting session identifier comprises a common accounting session identifier allocated to a plurality of accounting sessions established between the accounting server and a plurality of accounting clients. The method further comprises causing charging update data to be sent to the accounting server during the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by

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the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data sent during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data. Claims 27 and 45 have been amended to include substantially similar recitations and are each directed to an apparatus.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claims 27, 45, and 47 to recite that the accounting session identifier allocated to an accounting session established with an accounting server comprises a common accounting session identifier allocated to a plurality of accounting sessions established between the accounting server and a plurality of accounting clients. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest this feature. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of independent Claims 27, 45, and 47 under §103(a) is overcome and Claims 27, 45, and 47 are in condition for allowance.

The Rejection of the Dependent Claims is Overcome

Because each of the dependent claims includes each of the recitations of a respective independent base claim, Applicants further submit that the dependent claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited references, taken alone or in combination, for at least those reasons discussed above. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of the dependent claims are overcome and the dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amended claims and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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